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SECRET

NSCID No. 8

*declassified in print*NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTIVE NO. 8¹

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION

(Effective 17 February 1972)

For the purpose of ensuring the most effective, timely and economic exploitation of photography as a source for foreign intelligence relating to the national security, and pursuant to Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the National Security Council hereby directs that the following policies, responsibilities and procedures shall be recognized and established:

1. Policies

To ensure that the capabilities of the departments and agencies represented on the United States Intelligence Board are most efficiently utilized for the foreign intelligence exploitation of photography, the following basic principles shall apply:

a. No complete separation of interest is possible or desirable in photographic intelligence activities.

b. Departments and agencies represented on the United States Intelligence Board shall continue to be individually responsible for photographic interpretation and the production of photographic intelligence in support of established departmental or agency responsibilities and the utilization of such photography and related collateral information in the production of intelligence, such as, warning intelligence, orders of battle, estimates, technical intelligence, precise geodetic data, targeting, maps, charts, matrices or other targeting materials and related research and development.

c. To promote an integration of effort and to avoid unnecessary duplication and expense, a coordinated interdepartmental approach to the exploitation of photographic intelligence shall be established.

d. Subject to applicable security measures and on a "need-to-know" basis, there shall be full interchange of all pertinent photographs and photographic intelligence analysis among the departments and agencies concerned.

e. Certain photographic intelligence functions can be best performed as a central service of common concern, for the maximum benefit of the entire intelligence community.

2. Centralized Responsibilities

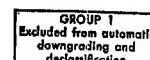
a. A National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) shall be provided as a service of common concern by the Director of Central Intelligence.

(1) The Director of the National Photographic Interpretation Center shall be designated by the Director of Central Intelligence with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense.

¹This Directive supersedes NSCID No. 8 dated 18 January 1961.

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(2) The United States Intelligence Board departments and agencies engaged in photographic intelligence production shall jointly provide appropriate personnel and other support for the NPIC, as agreed by them with the Director of Central Intelligence. Such supporting personnel shall be functionally under the direction of the Director, NPIC, for joint activities, but shall remain administratively responsible to their parent organizations.

(3) The administration of NPIC in time of war shall be transferred to the Secretary of Defense.

b. Foreign intelligence related photography shall be made available from photographic processing facilities to the NPIC and to designated photographic intelligence units of United States Intelligence Board departments, agencies and commands simultaneously, and without delay for preliminary analysis, within the bounds of any special security controls required.

c. The NPIC shall provide on a selective basis for the preliminary, rapid interpretation of photographic detail, including, where possible, tentative identification of such detail, and shall make appropriate distribution of such preliminary interpretations, with supporting references to appropriate related collateral information, to interested elements of the community.

d. It is the intent of this directive that the NPIC not engage in the production and dissemination of finished intelligence. Photography that appears to be primarily of departmental or agency significance shall be the primary exploitation responsibility of the department or agency concerned. The Center, itself, shall produce and disseminate NPIC photographic interpretation reports (based on an analysis of photography using other sources to assist in this interpretation) and provide other materials and services, in support of the national intelligence effort and approved Priority National Intelligence Objectives.

e. The NPIC shall also furnish such additional support to departmental and agency interests as can be provided without degradation of activities already specified in paragraphs 2.c. and 2.d. above.

f. The NPIC shall maintain on a selective basis a consolidated central file of photographic data as a service of common concern. It shall make arrangements for the exchange of photographs and photographic data with other photographic collections in the intelligence community, and shall make appropriate recommendations to facilitate the coordinated development of compatible codes, indexes and mechanized systems for the efficient recovery, selection and collation of available photographic data.

g. The NPIC shall engage in or sponsor, as appropriate, the development of specialized equipment for the intelligence exploitation of photography, and shall provide information about such specialized equipment to interested elements of the intelligence community for their own possible use or further adaptation.

h. The NPIC shall examine and make recommendations to the Director of Central Intelligence, as appropriate, as to any special security controls required.

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3. *Coordination*

In discharging its responsibilities the NPIC shall consult, as appropriate, with individual departments, agencies and committees of the United States Intelligence Board. The intelligence chief of each department or agency represented on the United States Intelligence Board shall coordinate photographic intelligence activities within his parent organization with the National Photographic Interpretation Center.